

PATENT
09/173,040

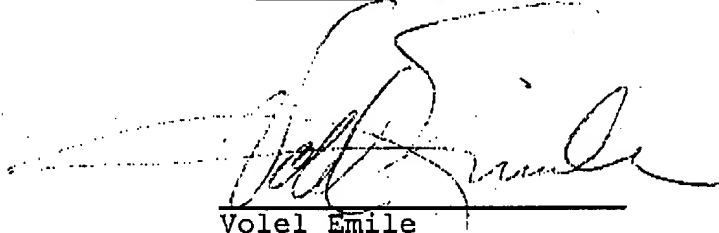
REMARKS

Applicants' attorney received a Final Office Action dated December 03, 2002. In response to the Final Office Action, Applicants' attorney filed a NOTICE OF APPEAL on January 22, 2003 and on January 27, 2003 an APPEAL BRIEF was filed. Both the NOTICE OF APPEAL and the APPEAL BRIEF were filed via facsimile.

Attached, please find a copy of an AUTO-REPLY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION from the Patent Office for the NOTICE OF APPEAL and the APPEAL BRIEF. Further, attached please find a copy of the actual NOTICE OF APPEAL and the APPEAL BRIEF that were filed.

Based on the foregoing, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that abandonment of this patent application be withdrawn and its prosecution be continued.

Applicants' attorney does not believe that any fee is required at this time. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee should be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 09-0447.



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